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**BLUEFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON FEDERAL CHARGES**

BECKLEY, W.Va. –Joseph Panagopoulos, 54, of Bluefield, West Virginia was sentenced to 46 months in prison yesterday by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger for using a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a drug felony. The defendant admitted that on April 29, 2010, he used a telephone to arrange the distribution of five oxycodone 80-milligram pills, which he distributed to an individual cooperating with law enforcement authorities. Panagopoulos further admitted that he used a telephone to set up the distribution of oxycodone pills to the same individual on two other occasions.

The West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John File handled the prosecution.

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**RALEIGH COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FIREARMS POSSESSION**

BECKLEY, W.Va. –Eric David Bennett, 31, of Cool Ridge, Raleigh County, West Virginia, was sentenced to 46 months in prison yesterday by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger for being a domestic violence misdemeanor in possession of firearms. On October 5, 2008, the defendant possessed four firearms at his residence in Beckley. Bennett was prohibited from possessing firearms at that time of the offense by virtue of a domestic battery conviction on August 6, 2008, in Magistrate Court of Raleigh County.

The Raleigh County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John File handled the prosecution.

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**BECKLEY FEDERAL INMATE PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL ASSAULT CHARGES**

BECKLEY, W.Va. – A Beckley federal corrections inmate pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Irene C. Berger on two counts of felony assault. Sylvester Cuevas, 35, Cuevas admitted that on April 12, 2010, he punched a correctional officer at the Federal Correctional Institution in Beckley. At the time, the defendant was serving a sentence at the correctional facility for mailing threatening communications. Cuevas further admitted that on August 23, 2010, he punched a correctional officer at the Southern Regional Jail located in Raleigh County, West Virginia.

The federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Marshals Service conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John File is handling the prosecution.

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